

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-119 are currently pending. Claims 1, 19, 27, 38, 57, 61, 83, 101, and 109 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-119 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,202,092 to Takimoto et al. (hereinafter "the '092 patent").

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicant's representative on March 3, 2008, at which time a proposed amendment to the claims was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would overcome the outstanding rejection of the claims. The claims have been amended as discussed in the interview.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a printing system, comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus configured to transmit information including a request to execute a specific print job and for receiving information, the terminal apparatus including inquiry means for transmitting, to the printing apparatus, an inquiry regarding authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus, automatically upon activation of the terminal apparatus or automatically upon activation of a printing application by the registered user;

notification means for notifying, in response to the inquiry, a the registered user of said printing apparatus of information on the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the

registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus; and

a network connecting said printing apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification means so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network.

The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.<sup>1</sup>

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

The ‘092 patent is directed to a print system including a shared printer on a network in which the authority of each user to use the printer is set in a security database. After a print request, including the number of sheets to be printed, is sent to a security validating device, the ‘092 patent discloses that the security validating device decides whether authorization to use the printer is to be granted based on the restrictions on the user maintained in the database and the status of the user.<sup>2</sup>

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the ‘092 patent fails to disclose a terminal apparatus that includes inquiry means for transmitting, to the printing apparatus, an inquiry regarding authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus, automatically upon activation of the terminal apparatus or automatically upon activation of a printing application by the registered user. Rather, as shown in Figures 2 and 5 of the ‘092 patent, the ‘092 patent merely discloses that an authorized print manager may inspect and modify the database regarding a user’s privileges. Applicant respectfully submits that the ‘092 patent is silent regarding a terminal that transmits to a printing apparatus an inquiry regarding authority of the registered users to use the printing apparatus automatically upon activation of the terminal apparatus for automatically upon activation of a printing application by the

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., page 17, line 18 to page 18, line 14 and page 18, line 20 through page 19, line 23 of the specification.

<sup>2</sup> See ‘092 patent, column 4, line 64 to column 5, line 14.

registered user. The ‘092 patent is silent regarding the sending of an inquiry of this nature to the printing apparatus from the terminal.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1 patentably defines over the ‘092 patent.

Independent Claims 27, 83, and 109 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1, and have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of independent Claims 27, 83, and 109 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

Independent Claim 19 is directed to a printing apparatus, comprising:

a central processing unit controlling an operation of the entire printing apparatus;

a usage authority management part storing information on authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job;

notification means for notifying, using a mail address of the registered user, the registered user of the information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, automatically in response to detecting that the information on authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus has been input or changed by a printer manager, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

The changes to Claim 19 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.<sup>3</sup>

As discussed above, the ‘092 patent is directed to a print system including a shared printer on a network in which the authority of each user to use the printer is set in a security

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<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., page 13, line 6 to page 14, line 4 of the specification.

database. After a print request, including the number of sheets to be printed, is sent to a security validating device, the ‘092 patent discloses that the security validating device decides whether authorization to use the printers to be granted based on the restrictions on the user maintained in the database and the status of the user. Further, the ‘092 patent discloses that a user having management authority can read or modify the database.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the 092 patent fails to disclose a printing apparatus that includes notification means for notifying, using a mail address of the registered user, the registered user of the information on authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, automatically in response to detecting that the information on authority of a registered user to use the printing apparatus has been input or changed by a print manager, as recited in amended Claim 19. Rather, the ‘092 patent merely discloses that a user with management authority can update the database, but does not teach or suggest automatically notifying the user using a mail address of the registered user, in response to detecting an input or change of the information by the print manager, as recited in amended Claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 19 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over the ‘092 patent.

Independent Claims 38, 61, and 101 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 19, and have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 19. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 38, 61, and 101 are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 19, 27, 38, 61, 83, 101, and 109 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the ‘092 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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